

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 EUR-10 IO-03 DPW-01

AID-10 RSR-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 /078 W

----- 015680

O R 061100Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5592

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

RUEHBANUP

BKJEKMEUUYI

WXRRBCNIM C

YFJLBZGAMCONSUL DANANG 6994

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 14158

LIMDIS

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILL VS

SUBJ: VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT JULY 30 - AUG 5,
1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED GENERALLY LOW IN MR 1 NOT-
WITHSTANDING A SERIES OF ENGAGEMENTS NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS.
RECOURSE TO AIR STRIKES I RH ACA?BLNQDH/UBJGVASAGDFRQ
KGRBVTOCITY AND
A LULL IN GROUND ACTION FOLLOWING AN ARVN VICTORY IN BINH
DUONG PROVINCE ARE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR DECLINES IN MILITARY
ACTIVITY AND CASUALTIES IN MR 2 AND MR 3. IN MR 4, WHERE VC-
INITIATED INCIDENTS INCREASED BY 50 PER CENT, RVNAF CASUALTIES
NEVERTHELESS DECREASED AS ARVN TERMINATED ITS LARGE SCALE OPERA-
TIONS IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE. GVN PUBLIC STATEMENTS FOCUSED ON
THE SO FAR FRUITLESS DISCUSSIONS ON RESUMPTION OF THE RELEASE OF
CAPTURED PERSONNEL, WHEREAS THE GVN IS ACTUALLY CONCENTRATING ITS
EFFORTS WITHIN THE TPJMC ON ACHIEVING AGREEMENT ON THE DEPLOYMENT
OF TPJMC TEAMS TO REGION AND SUB-REGION SITES. EXCHANGES OF
CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE APPROACH OF
BOTH SIDES TO THE FORMER, WHEREAS LIMITED PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED
ON THE LATTER. THE FPJMT DID ACHIEVE RESUMPTION OF THE SAIGON-
HANOI LIAISON FLIGHTS, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE PROSPECT FOR
EARLY AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8B. END SUMMARY.

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED GENERALLY LOW IN MR 1, ALTHOUGH THERE
WAS AN EXTENDED SERIES OF ENGAGEMENTS NORTH OF THE HAI VANG PASS
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL WEEKS. THERE IS NO INDICATION YET,
HOWEVER, THAT THE RENEWED PRG/NVA ACTIVITY IN THUA THIEN
PROVINCE IS ANYTHING MORE THAN A REMINDER THAT THEIR FORCES
ARE STILL AROUND. GVN CLEARING OPERATIONS IN QUANG NGAI, PARTI-
CULARLY WEST OF HIGHWAY 1, HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH STIFFENING
ENEMY RESISTANCE. YET, MAIN FORCE ENEMY UNITS CONTINUE TO AVOID
CONTACT AND TO LEAVE THE DEFENSIVE BURDEN ON LOCAL FORCES; WHICH
ARE THEMSELVES REPORTED TO BE INCREASINGLY COMPOSED OF
NORTHERNERS. IN MR 2, REPORTED INCIDENTS DECREASED BY 25 PER
CENT AND CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES WERE DOWN BY AT LEAST A THIRD.
TACTICAL AIR ACTIVITY REACHED THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN FOUR MONTHS, AS
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VNAF POUNDED ENEMY STRONGHOLDS WEST OF KONTUM CITY PRESUMABLY
IN PREPARATION FOR FURTHER GROUND ASSAULTS WHICH THUS FAR HAVE
NETTED BUT CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES. THERE WAS SOME DE-
CREASE ALSO IN THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN MR 3, ESPECIALLY IN CMMMC
RUGZCDAPJVMHBWNDE PJ
FTI SL PY XRRDWZLGPS'S VICTORY OVER THE NVA 165TH
RGT, SOUTH OF PHU GIAO JULY 27 - 28. THUS, ROUTE 1-A IS NOW OPEN
BETWEEN PHU CUONG AND PHU GIAO, BUT IS STILL BLOCKED BETWEEN PHU

GIAO AND DONG XOAI. FOUR WEEKS OF BLOODY FIGHTING HAVE ACTUALLY PRODUCES LITTLE CHANGE IN THE SITUATION THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE 5TH DIVISION BEGAN THE ROUTE CLEARING OPERATION. MR 3 COMMANDERS PRESENTLY HAVE NO PLANS TO FOLLOW UP THEIR MORALE-BOSTING VICTORY WITH ATTACKS NORTH OF PHU GIAO. IN MR 4, THE RATE OF VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS INCREASED BY 50 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS WEEK, ACCOMPANIED BY AN INCREASE IN REPORTED VC CASUALTIES. RVNAF CASUALTIES, HOWEVER, WERE OFF BY 20 PER CENT. WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE ARVN HAD COMPLETED A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE THE STATUS QUO OF JANUARY 28, INCLUDING INTERDICTION OF NEW ENEMY 9: , ARVN HAS CEASED, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, LARGE SCALE OPERATIONS IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE. THERE HAS NOT, HOWEVER, BEEN ANY MOVE TO LESSEN THE CONCENTRATION OF TROOP UNITS WITHIN THE RPOVINCE.

2. HOI CHANH HAVE DESCRIBED A NEWLY-DESIGNATED PRG "PEACE DISTRICT" IN WEST-CENTRAL QUANG NAM PROVINCE WHERE THE PRG IS CONSTRUCTING PERMANENT BARRACKS, BRIDGES, AND ROADS. TPT REPORT OF SUCH ACTIVITY IN QUANGNAM PROVINCE COINCIDES WITH REPORTS OF SIMILAR PRG EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE IN OTHER AREAS WHICH IT REGARDS AS SAFELY WITHIN ITS SPHERE OF CONTROL: WESTERN MR 1 EXTENDING DOWN INTO KOMTUM RPOVINCE IN MR 2, AN AREA IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ASTRIDE THE MR 2-MR 3 BOUNDARY, NORTHERN TAY NINH PROVINCE AND NEIGHBORING AREAS ADJACENT TO THE CAMBODIAN BORDER, AND TERRITORY IN KIEN GIANG, CHUONG THIEN, AN XUYEN, AND BAC LIEU PROVINCES ON THE PERIPHERY OF THEIR

NOTE BY OC/T: SAIGON 14158, SECTION 1, HEADING, SUMMARY AND PARA 1 ALL RECEIVED GARBLED. CORRECTIONS TO FOLLOW.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ADP-00 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 SS-14 IO-03 DPW-01

AID-10 SSO-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01 /078 W

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O R 061100Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5593

INFO AMEMBASSY BANKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
-AMEMBASSY LONDON 973
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 14158

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U MINH FOREST STRONGHOLD. IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS AREA AND
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AROUND THE U MINH FOREST THE PRG HAS BEEN ABLE TO UTILIZE THE
SPARCE LOCAL POPULATION IN ITS PROJECTS, BUT A GENERAL LACK OF
SUCCESS IN REPOPULATING THE AREAS UNDER ITS CONTROL WITH INDIGENOUS
SOUTHERNERS HAS CAUSED THE DRV/PRG TO RESORT TO INCREASED IN-
FILTRATION OF BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CADRE FROM THE NORTH.
SOME OF THESE CADRE ARE EXPECTED TO ESTABLISH THE NUCLEUS OF NEW
PRG COMMUNITIES WHICH WILL BEGIN TO DRAW BACK FORMER RESIDENTS
FROM THEIR REFUGE IN GVN CONTROLLED AREAS. IN THE MORE IN-
ACCESSIBLE AREAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH PARA-MILITARY COMMUNI-
TIES TO THE EXTENT THE EFFORT SUCCEEDS,
WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE NVA/PRG FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEMS AND, IN
PLACES SUCH AS THE DELTA, LEND CREDENCE TO PRG THREATS THAT FOR-
MER RESIDENTS WHO FAIL TO RETURN WILL PERMANENTLY LOSE THEIR
ANCESTRAL PROPERTIES.

3. THE GVN IS CONCENTRATING ITS EFFORTS WITHIN THE TPJMC ON
ACHIEVING PROGRESS ON DEPLOYMENT OF TPJMC TEAMS TO REGION AND
SUB-REGION SITES, AND HAS PROPOSED THAT THIS BE ACCOMPLISHED IN
PHASES. THERE HAS BEEN LIMITED PROGRESS ON THE FIRST PHASE,
AS THE PRG HAS AGREED TO BRING PERSONNEL TO SAIGON FROM REGIONS

III, IV, AND VII AND HAS AGREED ON PICK-UP SITES REGIONS III AND VII. THE ONLY REAL PROBLEM IN THIS PHASE WOULD SEEM TO BE THE CHOICE OF A PICK-UP SITE IN REGION VI, WHERE THE GVN IS NOW OFFERING A LOCATION IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE NEAR THE CAMBODIAN BORDER AND THE PRG REMAINS ADAMANT ON ITS INITIAL SITE NEAR ROUTE 4 IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SECOND PHASE, COLONEL NGUYEN-VAN-KIM OF THE GVN/TPJMC DELEGATION TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 4 THAT ONLY IN REGIONS IV AND V - WHERE THE MILITARY SITUATION IS UNSETTLED AND THE GVN IS WARY OF PRG EFFORTS TO APPEAR TO CONTROL A SOLID BELT OF TERRITORY ACROSS THE COUNTRY - DID HE FORESEE ANY REAL PROBLEM IN THE SELECTION OF REGIONAL TEAM SITES. THE GVN INTENTIONALLY OFFERED TWO NEW SITES FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE TPJMC SAIGON HEADQUARTERS WHICH IT KNEW THE PRG WOULD TURN DOWN, BUT THE DELEGATION HOPES SOON TO BE ABLE TO OFFER THE FORMER ICC COMPOUND, WHICH IT BELIEVES THE PRG DELEGATION WILL ACCEPT. THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS TOWARD RESUMPTION OF THE RETURN OF CAPTURED PERSONNEL. THE GVN REMAINS WILLING TO RECEIVE ITS OWN PERSONNEL AT THE SITES AGREED TO ON JULY 20, BUT NOW PROPOSES TO SHIFT THE SITE FOR RETURN OF ITS COMMUNIST CIVILIAN DETAINEES FROM LOC NINH TO THE THACH HAN RIVER, WHERE, AS BEFORE, THERE IS A STALEMATE OVER WHICH SIDE OF THE RIVER THE RETURN WILL ACTUALLY TAKE

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PLACE.

4. THE RESUMPTION OF THE WEEKLY SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHT ON AUGUST 3 WAS THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT LAST WEEK IN THE DEADLOCKED FPJMT TALKS. DESPITE STRONG USDEL EFFORTS IN FPUMT SESSIONS TO INDUCE THE OTHER SIDE TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF CAUALTY RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES DURING AUGUST, THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS CONTINUE TO HOLD TO THEIR POSITION ON THE PRIOR NEED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON MODALITIES AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 8B. PRG INSISTENCE ON LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE BUILDING OF MONUMENTS AND CEMETERIES, AND VISITS OF RELATIVES TO GRAVES, WHICH ARE NOT CONTEMPLATED IN THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT, DIMS PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY VIOLATION, ARMISTICE, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON14158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730855/aaaabopz.tel
Line Count: 264
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT JULY 30 - AUG 5, 1973
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005